

COUNTRY Rumania

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Independent Machine Factory at Sibiu

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X

DATE OF CONTENT

1949 and 1950

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

1 December 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

1 - sketch on ditto

REMARKS

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DO NOT CIRCULATE

1. The Independenta (Independence) Machine Factory is situated on Strada Burger in the northern sector of Sibiu, Rumania. The factory area is bounded on the north by the Cibin River, with only a strip 20 meters wide separating the plant from the river. The factory area is bounded on the south by a park, and on the east by the former Krautstrasse.

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This street was described as running almost parallel to Strada Burger. The factory-owned vehicles included 1 seven-ton Skoda truck, 3 five-ton Opel-Blitz trucks, 1 bus, 1 Opel-Olympia sedan, and 1 Mercedes convertible.

2. The factory was founded by one Rieger (fnu), a German, and was under the management of the Rieger Company until 1944. The factory was nationalized in 1945. A forge, a lathe shop and an assembly shop were erected in 1947.

3. The Independenta Machine Factory was subordinate to the Rumanian Ministry of Metallurgy, and has been under the management of Director Metzlin (fnu) since 1945. It covered an area of about 600 x 500 meters. Its principal departments were 1 old and 1 new forge, 1 old and 1 new lathe shop, 2 foundries, 1 old and 1 new assembly shop. The factory was supplied with power by the municipal power plant.

4. The factory produced textile machines, called Laminore, for the preliminary processing of cotton. A total of 115 machines of this type were manufactured in 1950. The machines were about 20 meters long and 1.10 meters high. Also, about 600 fourteen-hp Diesel engines and about 600 gasoline engines were manufactured in 1950. The gasoline engines were of both 9 and 12 hp.

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The factory also produced sewer equipment on a small scale. It was said that, in the spring of 1948, the production of semi-finished projectiles (Granatenrohlinge) was started. Prior to World War II, the factory produced sewer pipes and sewer covers. During the war, the factory produced shells, almost exclusively. The items produced by the factory were shipped out by rail. The railroad cars were labeled for shipment to Brad and Cluj. The Diesel engines, the gasoline engines and the textile machines manufactured in the factory were sold on the domestic market exclusively. There was no production for export in 1949 and 1950.

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5. Steel ingots were supplied from the Hunedoara metallurgical plant.
6. The Independenta Machine Factory employed a total of from 2,600 to 2,800 persons, including 800 to 1,000 ethnic Germans from Transylvania. The rest were Rumanians, Hungarians and some Russians. The production departments of the factory worked three 8-hour shifts.
7. The factory was surrounded by a wooden fence and guarded by fire police (Feuerwehr) who were stationed in barracks installations at Sibiu and were armed with carbines. There were no other security measures. The factory employees did not carry work passes.

25X1 1. Comment. For layout sketch of the plant, see Annex.

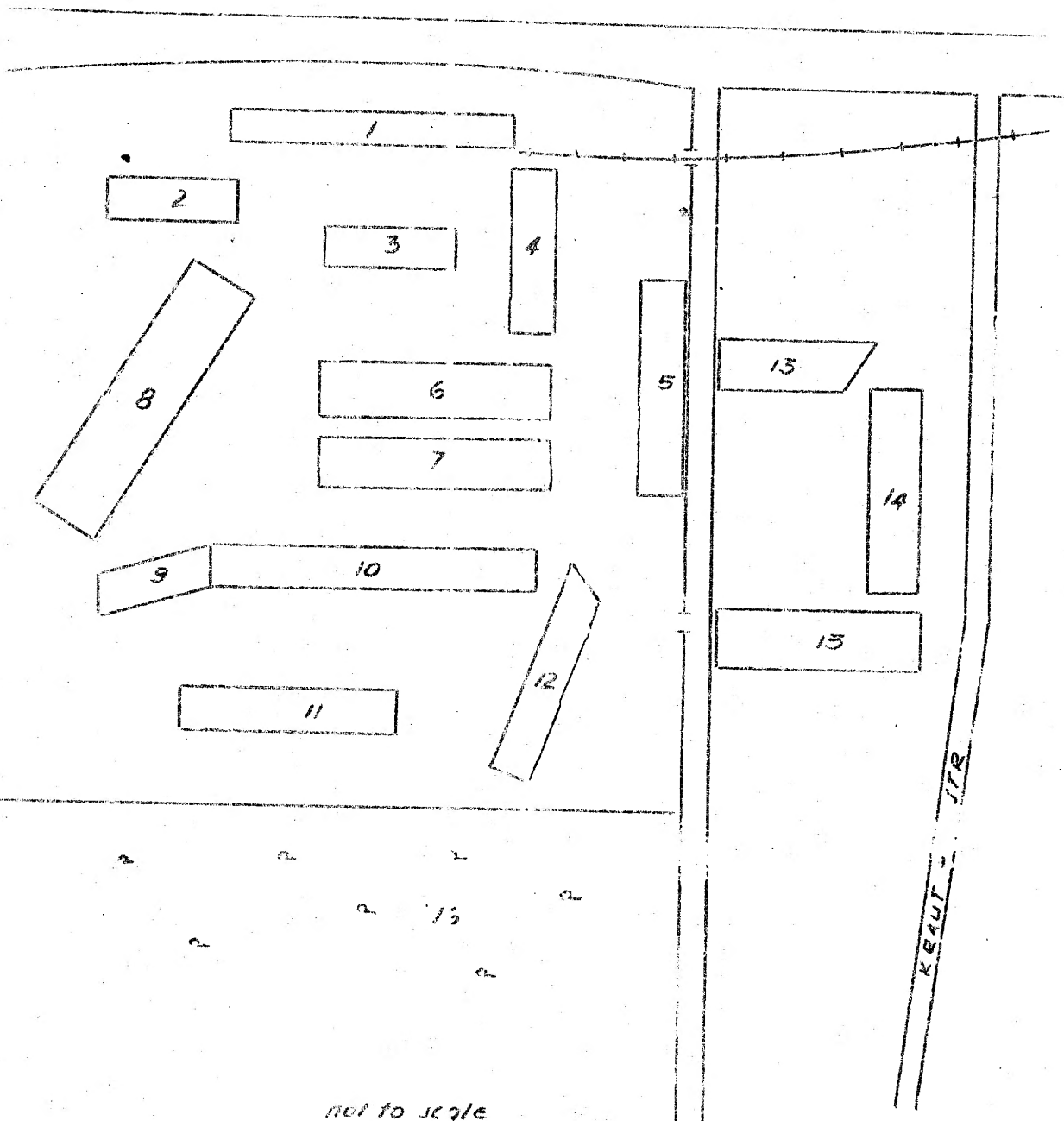
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LEGEND See next page

Layout Sketch of the Independenta Machine Factory at Sibiu



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Legend:

- 1 Coke dump.
- 2 Old forge, about 40 x 20 meters.
- 3 Small foundry, about 20 x 12 meters, equipped with 1 smelting furnace which produced 200 kg of casting in one operation; and 1 hand-operated crane with a carrying capacity of 3,000 kg. [redacted] the foundry produced semi-finished shells which were loaded into freight cars only at night. [redacted] 25X1
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- 4 Metal-casting foundry.
- 5 Technical office, 100 x 15 meters, a two-story building which was bounded on the east by Strada Burger. The building contained 4 drafting rooms with from 12 to 14 drawing boards in each room, 1 file room, and 1 office for the chief of the Technical Office who was graduate engineer Baumgartner (fnu), a Byelorussian, who was well trained for his position. About 60 percent of the office staff were ethnic Germans from Transylvania and the rest were Rumanians and Russians.
- 6 Iron foundry, about 60 x 25 meters, equipped with 3 traveling cranes with a carrying capacity of 15,000 kg each, and 3 smelting furnaces, each about 12 meters high and 1.50 meters in diameter. Each furnace produced 300 kg of casting in one operation. Usually, not more than two of the furnaces were in operation at one time, during the period covered by the report. Each furnace was charged from 60 to 70 times per month. Dead mold castings (Formguss) and chilled castings were produced for Diesel engines and textile machines. There was also a cleaning room, in which work was done by hand; and a drying room. The foundry was operated by 234 men who worked in three 8-hour shifts of equal strength.
- 7 Old lathe shop, about 60 x 25 meters, equipped with numerous old lathes with transmission drive; several new engine lathes and milling machines; 2 large German one-spindle boring mills of Raboma type; 1 new Hungarian duplicate of the German one-spindle Raboma type boring mill, which was called Raboma-Model 1949; and 1 large crankshaft machine. The lathe shop processed parts for gasoline engines, Diesel engines and textile machines. There were 450 employees who worked in three 8-hour shifts of equal strength.
- 8 New assembly shop, about 100 x 25 meters, a steel and concrete slab structure, completed in April 1950, and equipped with 2 large traveling cranes and numerous assembly benches for the assembly of the gasoline engines, Diesel engines and textile machines. There was no assembly line.
- 9 Old assembly shop which was stripped of machinery when the new assembly shop was built, and was used as a storage building by the end of 1950.
- 10 New lathe shop, about 100 x 30 meters, equipped with very modern lathes, primarily of Hungarian make; duplicates of German Pittler and VDF lathes; milling machines; boring machines; and other machinery. The shop processed parts for gasoline engines, Diesel engines and textile machines. There were about 500 employees who worked in three 8-hour shifts.
- 11 New forge, about 60 x 25 meters, completed but not equipped, as of the end of 1950.
- 12 Carpentry shop, about 40 x 20 meters; equipped with woodworking machines of various types, such as band saws, circular saws and planing machines. This

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shop made patterns and did carpentry work for plant requirements.

13 Garages.

14 Warehouse.

15 Main administration, a three-story building, about 60 x 25 meters; containing the paymaster's office, the personnel office, offices of the factory administration and the sales and purchasing offices. Business manager was Director Schneider (fnu), an ethnic German who was born in Sibiu.

16 Park.

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